

Consultation Response (Biodiversity)

Kirklees Council Conservation and Design Team, Biodiversity Officer

<i>Minor scheme consultation response</i>		For office use
Date of response	<i>10/12/2018</i>	<i>Is this a response to an informal consultation request?</i> Yes ☐ No ☒
Location	<i>land adj, 34, Cliff Road, Holmfirth, HD9 1UY</i>	
Application number	<i>2018_93687</i>	
Responding officer	<i>Tom Stephenson</i>	

Assessment

The applicant has submitted an ecological report entitled Ecology Assessment. This is not a report type recognised by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM, 2017) and does not provide the information necessary to enable an assessment of the proposals against relevant planning policy. The ecological information submitted is not sufficient to support the application.

Guidance from CIEEM (CIEEM, 2018) makes clear that only an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA), with content proportional to the scale of the development and complexity of its potential impacts, is suitable for supporting a planning application.

The standardised content of an EclA ensures adequate information is available to officer's to enable certainty and clarity over the potential for ecological impacts and means of mitigating negative effect. In this case, notwithstanding the prescribed content of an EclA, the applicant's ecologist has failed to undertake an appropriate consultation with the local records centre, and has not provided a map of the habitats present.

It is likely that the site has potential to be developed for the proposed use while avoiding significant ecological impacts and providing a biodiversity net gain. However, the means of achieving this is not demonstrated within the supporting information.

Advice to planning officer

The supporting information is not sufficient. It is likely that some impact avoidance measures will be required as part of the proposals, which has not been described in sufficient detail. The application will also need to demonstrate how the biodiversity net gain will be achieved.

References

CIEEM, 2017. *Guidelines for Ecological Report Writing*, Winchester: Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.

CIEEM, 2018. *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine*. Winchester: Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Managment.